

### **REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

As noted on pages 16-17 of the Board Decision rendered on June 29, 2009, Applicants invoked the language of 35 USC 112 6<sup>th</sup> paragraph . The Applicant asserted that the means in claim 21 is the Storage Processor Unit 701. The Specification describes that the SPU comprises: a Packet Aggregation and Classification Engine (PACE) 704, a Packet Processing Unit (PPU) 706, an SRAM 705, and a CAM 707 and each PACE has a dedicated path to a PPU 706 while four PACEs share a data path to the CPU 714. The Board interpreted the means plus function language to include these enumerated elements. Since claim 21 imports these limitations, it is asserted that none of the prior art of record, neither singularly nor in combination teach claim 21.

Claims 22-23 depend upon claim 21 and are allowed based on their dependency to claim 21.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to RAMSEY REFAI whose telephone number is (571) 272-3975. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:00 am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ryan Zeender can be reached on (571) 272-6790. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/RAMSEY REFAI/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3627  
October 20, 2009

RAMSEY REFAI  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3627